

longitudinal bands on mesoscutum, a pair of roundish marks joined by narrow band on the basal area of propodeum, a spot below the subtegular ridge, a longitudinal mark anteriorly and a large spot on the speculum of the mesopleurum, subapical transverse band on first tergite and trans-band basally on rest of the tergites, stigma and nervures black. Flagellum, mark on the mid femur, base of hind tibia and all tarsal segments brownish black.

MALE: Same as the female in all essential details.

Holotype: MALE: INDIA: Maharashtra: Aurangabad; and paratypes 16 females, 6 males, 8th August 1981 (Deposited in the Zoology Department of Marathwada University, Aurangabad).

DISCUSSION

In accordance with the key to the Oriental, Australian and Eastern-Palaearctic species groups of *Xanthopimpla* Saussure by Townes and Chiu (1970), *X. minuta aurangabadensis* subsp. nov. fits in the *Trunca* species group in the characters of areola, mesopleurum microsculpture, areolet and the largest hair tip of the mid-hind-tarsal claws. In the key to the species of the *Trunca* group, Townes and Chiu (1970) this subspecies resembles *X. minuta lita* Townes and Chiu (1970) in the colour pattern of the ocellar triangle, scape, pedicel and body; microsculpture of propodeum and tip of ovipositor.

However, it differs from the same in having (i) a pair of black spots at the base of propodeum which are connected by a narrow band, (ii) brown mark on the mid femur and tarsals, (iii) dark-brown mark on the trochantellus, femur, base of tibia and all tarsal segments of hind leg, and (iv) black markings on the mesopleurum. In addition *X. minuta aurangabadensis* subsp. nov. is unique in possessing a black triangular mark at the base of the scutellum in continuation with median black band on the mesoscutum, lateral rows of hairs on the first abdominal segment, black mark at the base of fore wing, second geniculate recurrent and indistinct branchiella.

X. minuta aurangabadensis subsp. nov. may be included in the Key to the Indo-Australian species of *Trunca* group Townes and Chiu (1970), as follows:

8. Propodeum and apex of hind tibia entirely yellow; South-Eastern Asia, Ceylon and Taiwan
..... *minuta minuta* Cameron (1905)
- Propodeum with a pair of black spot at base; hind tibia either apically or basally black. 9
9. Hind tibia 0.2 apically black; mesopleurum unmaculated; hind trochantellus yellow; only two apical tarsal segments black. Borneo *minuta lita* Townes and Chiu (1970)
- Hind tibia, 0.2 basally black, mesopleurum maculated; hind trochantellus and all tarsal segments brownish. India: Maharashtra. *minuta aurangabadensis* subsp. nov.

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HOMALOPTERA MENONI — A NEW HOMALOPTERID FISH (PISCES: HOMALOPTERIDAE) FROM KERALA¹

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(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Homaloptera* van Hasselt is represented by four species in the Indian

subcontinent, namely *Homaloptera bilineata* Blyth, *H. modesta* (Vinciguerra), and *Homaloptera rupicola* (Prashad and Mukerji) are distributed in Burma. The genus is represented in India by a single species, *Homaloptera montana* Herre, found in Silent Valley and New Amarambalam area of

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Western Ghats (Menon 1987). Recently, Indra and Remadevi (1981) added a new species *H. pillaii*, but Menon (op.cit.) considered it to be a synonym of *H. montana*. Pethiyagoda and Kottelat (1994), however, treated *H. pillaii* as a distinct species. A new species of *Homaloptera* was collected from Indekkuthodu, a tributary of Bhavani River at Siruvani in the Western Ghats.

Diagnostic Characters: Body subcylindrical and covered with scales, except on the head and ventral surface. Head pointed, with four rostral barbels and two maxillary barbels. The gill-opening extends to the ventral surface for a short distance. Lips thick, continuous at an angle of the mouth and are non-

opening, from *Balitora* by the nature of the lips and from *Travancoria* by the lesser number of rostral barbels and absence of the rostral groove.

Description: D 2/8 P 5/9 V 2/6; A 2/5; C 19; L.l. 59-62; L.tr. 7.5/6.5-7.

Body: Body subcylindrical and covered with scales except in the ventral parts. Depth 13.935 (13.414-14.457) per cent in the standard length (Fig. 1a).

Head: Head pointed and its length 20.605 (20.48-20.73) per cent in SL. Eyes moderately large, dorso-laterally placed and their diameter 30.33 per cent in head length. Eyes not visible from the ventral side. Length of snout 8.948 (8.536-9.63) per cent in SL,

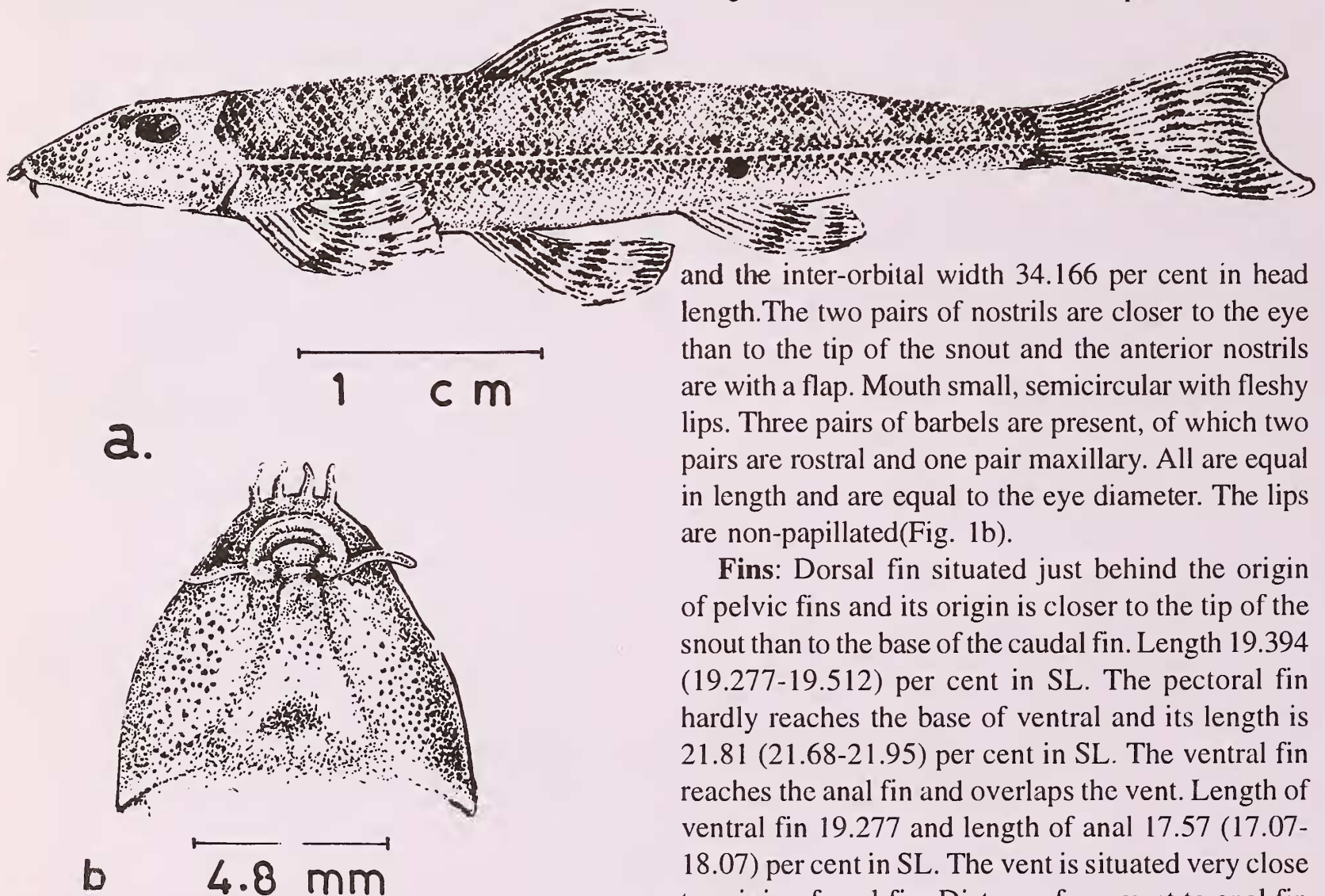


Fig. 1a. *Homaloptera menoni* sp. nov.: Lateral view of holotype.

Fig. 1b. Ventral aspect of head of *H. menoni*.

pappillated. A rostral groove is absent.

It can be distinguished from other genera of Homalopteridae like *Bhavania* by the extent of gill-

and the inter-orbital width 34.166 per cent in head length. The two pairs of nostrils are closer to the eye than to the tip of the snout and the anterior nostrils are with a flap. Mouth small, semicircular with fleshy lips. Three pairs of barbels are present, of which two pairs are rostral and one pair maxillary. All are equal in length and are equal to the eye diameter. The lips are non-papillated (Fig. 1b).

Fins: Dorsal fin situated just behind the origin of pelvic fins and its origin is closer to the tip of the snout than to the base of the caudal fin. Length 19.394 (19.277-19.512) per cent in SL. The pectoral fin hardly reaches the base of ventral and its length is 21.81 (21.68-21.95) per cent in SL. The ventral fin reaches the anal fin and overlaps the vent. Length of ventral fin 19.277 and length of anal 17.57 (17.07-18.07) per cent in SL. The vent is situated very close to origin of anal fin. Distance from vent to anal fin is 11.764 per cent in the inter-distance between origin of pelvic and anal fins. Pre-dorsal distance is 46.664 (46.341-46.987) and pre-ventral distance is 44.24 (43.902-44.578) per cent in SL.

Caudal peduncle is long and narrow. Its least width is 30 per cent in its length. Caudal fin is slightly

emarginate.

Holotype: FF/KFRI/85. 41 mm standard length from Indekkuthodu in Siruvani, a tributary of Bhavani, Muthikulam forest, Palghat district, Kerala, collected by C.P. Shaji and P.S. Easa on 04-4-1995.

Paratype: One specimen FF/KFRI/86, 42 mm standard length collected from the same locality on the same day by us. All have been preserved in the Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Trichur.

Etymology: Named after Dr. A.G.K. Menon, Emeritus Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, who has made outstanding contributions to the taxonomy of Homalopteridae and Cobitidae.

Coloration: Body is greenish yellow in ground colour with a few irregular blotches on the back of the body. The head and anterior parts of the body are mottled with black dots. Head and body have many tubercles, which, however, are absent on the ventral surface. Tubercles are also present on the anterior simple rays of pectoral fin and ventral fin. The dorsal, ventral and anal fins each have two rows of black dots.

KEY TO SPECIES OF *Homaloptera*

1. Origin of dorsal fin opposite or in front of pelvic fin
..... *H. bilineata*

- Origin of dorsal fin behind origin of pelvic fin. 2
2. A. Origin of dorsal fin equidistant between tip of snout and base of caudal fin.
- a) Lateral line scales 40-45 *Homaloptera rupicola*
Lateral line scales more than 45 b
- b) Lateral line scales 70-72 *H. montana*
Lateral line scales 83-93 *H. pillaii*
- B. Origin of dorsal fin nearer to the tip of the snout than to the base of the caudal fin.
- a) Lateral line scales 47. Least width of the caudal peduncle 42.86-50.00 per cent in its length
..... *H. modesta*
- Lateral line scales 59-62. Least width of the caudal peduncle is 30.00 per cent in its length
..... *H. menoni* sp. nov.

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